

VERMONT WORKING LANDS ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE

Vermont Cranberry Company

Fletcher, VT



Vermont Cranberry Company is owned by Bob and Betsy Lesnikoski and family. It is Vermont's only commercial cranberry farm.

They are a small independent grower selling under their own label. The majority of their crop is sold as fresh retail packed or bulk fresh berries. They distribute throughout Vermont to independent stores, co-ops, local farmstands and Natural food stores.



Vermont Cranberry's project involves the construction of a Cranberry Juice press room, solar cranberry dehydrator and a walkin freezer building. They currently cannot meet demand for both juice and dried berries. They also spend a significant amount on rented freezer space and transport to and from rented space. This project would increase profitability, increase production to meet established demand and allow them to increase cranberry acreage. Gap certification, and full compliance with Haacp could also be obtained following this project. The increased space would also foster a agritourism aspect to their farm.

Total Working Lands Grant—\$15,000.00

Total Match provided by Vermont Cranberry Company —\$10,000.00

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GRANT RECIPIENT UPDATE - DECEMBER '13



Vermont Cranberry Company has just completed its largest cranberry Harvest ever. They are looking forward to constructing their new packing house and juice and dried berry facility made possible by the Working Lands Enterprise Grant.